



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009

No. 21

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of all nations, light of the world, illuminate the hearts of our Senators today. Enable them to shine Your light into our Nation and world, not to glorify themselves but to honor You. Lord, give them the fire of ethical congruence that will enable them to reinforce lofty rhetoric with righteous actions. As they face daunting challenges, lift the light of Your countenance upon them. Keep them from growing weary in doing what is right, as You remind them of the certainty of a bountiful harvest. Lord, help them to see the great results that come from seeking to do Your will and from striving to let their words and thoughts please You.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 3, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, it doesn't appear that Senator MCCONNELL or I will give any opening statements today. Therefore, we will move immediately to the Economic Recovery Act, H.R. 1.

The Senate will recess today from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for weekly caucus luncheons. There will be rollcall votes throughout the day and we hope into the night. We have a lot of work to do in the next few days. We need cooperation on both sides to make sure Senators have the opportunity to offer amendments they feel appropriate and to agree to a reasonable time on these.

The Republican leader and I are looking forward to a good debate and opportunities for people to offer amendments. At this stage, there appears to be no limit on the type of amendments offered. We hope people will be considerate of the rest of the Senators and move forward as quickly as we can. We have a lot to do in a little bit of time.

The Presidents Day recess is to begin a week from this Friday, and that recess will not begin unless President Obama has a bill on his desk to sign. I would hope everyone appreciates the fact that we not only have to complete the legislation but we have to work out some kind of arrangement with the House.

I have spoken last night to the Republican leader, and we intend to go to conference on this bill. I hope everyone keeps in mind the time concerns we have.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Reid (for Inouye-Baucus) amendment No. 98, in the nature of a substitute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, today, we continue consideration of the economic recovery bill. Our country is facing a serious economic challenge. America is in the middle of the most significant economic downturn in the lifetimes of most Americans, and the bill before us is a serious response.

The Finance and the Appropriations Committees have sought to assemble the most effective tools available to help our economy recover. Ninety-nine percent of the Finance Committee's response will take effect in the first 19 months of the bill. I repeat: 99 percent of the Finance Committee's response will take effect in the first 19 months of the bill.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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